

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06232 132014Z

11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

DHA-02 SAM-01 /045 W  
----- 120108

R 131555Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6779  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
US MISSION NATO 1087  
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT SP  
SUBJECT: LABOR AMNESTY ACCORD

REF: MADRID 6023

1. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA  
MATA ON AUGUST 4 ANNOUNCED THAT THE ROYAL AMNESTY DECREE  
WAS ALSO BEING EXTENDED TO THE LABOR FIELD, AS REGARDED  
DISMISSALS FOR POLITICO TRADE UNION REASONS. THUS, THE OFFICIAL  
BULLETIN OF AUGUST 10 CARRIED THE TEXT OF THE ACCORD ON THE  
SO CALLED "LABOR AMNESTY" TO COVER IN A SPIRIT OF CONCORD"  
SITUATIONS IN GENERAL ENTAILING THE LIMITATION OF THE FULL  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 06232 132014Z

RECOGNITION OF UNION RIGHTS. IF THE "DEPRIVATION OR

RESTRICTION WAS ISSUED AS A RESULT OF ACTIONS WHICH HAVE STOPPED BEING ILLICIT OR ILLEGAL.

2. AS COULD PERHAPS BE EXPECTED THE "ILLEGAL (" UNOFFICIAL" WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE DESCRIPTIVE OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE OPPOSITION UNIONS) LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN QUICK TO CHARACTERIZE THE LABOR AMNESTY AS INADQUATE. THE SOCIALIST UGT, FOR EXAMPLE, POINTED OUT THAT THE LABOR AMNESTY APPEARED TO REFER TO THE "SUPPOSED RIGHTS OF THE UNION MEMBER WITHIN THE OFFICIAL SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE", RATHER THAN TO THE "SUPPOSED TRADE UNION RIGHTS OF ALL WORKERS". THE UGT ASKED FOR "TRADE UNION FREEDOM WITHOUT CONDITIONS, LIMITS OR EXCLUSIONS".

3. IN FURTHER NEGATIVE COMMENT, THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN USO DECLARED THAT WHILE THE LABOR AMNESTY IMPLIED A "KIND OF REHABILITATION" OF WORKERS UNJUSTLY DISMISSED, "PARTICALLY SPEAKING, VERY FEW WILL REGAIN THERI LOST JOBS. USO FURHTER ADDED THAT ONE COULD NOT SPEAK OF LABOR AMNESTY AS LONG AS REPRESSIVE LABOR LEGISLATION REMAINED ON THE BOOKS. THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS (SWC) CONDEMNED THE LABOR AMNESTY AS "DEMAGOGIC, INEFFECTUAL AND IGNORING HISTORY AT A TIME WHEN THE WORKING CLASS IS HASTENING TOWARD AUTHENTIC UNIONISM".

4. COMMENT: AT WRITING, WE REMAIN UNCLEAR AS TO THE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND SCOPE OF THIS NEW LABOR POLICY STATEMENT. FOR EXAMPLY, THIRD PARTY RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED, WHICH MEANS THAT OUSTED UNION OFFICIALS, EVEN THOUGH NOW "AMNISTIED" CANNOT DISPLACE THE CURRENT JOB HOLDERS. INITIALLY. FOLLOWING THE FORMATION OF THE SUAREZ CABINET, GOVT LABOR OFFICIALS HAD TAKEN THE LINE THAT SO CALLED ZLABOR AMNESTY" WWAS NOT SOMETHING THAT COULD BE DECREED BY THE STATE, BUT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT. THIS ARGUMENT WAS HARDLY AN EFFECTIVE ONE IN THE TRADE UNION CRICLES. THUS, WHEN THE ROYAL AMNESTY DECISION WAS ANOUNCED (REFTEL), THE SPANISH LEFTIST OPPOSITION QUICKLY DEMANDED THE EXTENSION OF THE AMNESTY TO LABOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 06232 132014Z

MILITANTS. THE RESULT WAS THIS LIMITED QTE AMNESTY UNQTE ACCORD ISSUED BY THE SYNDICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE NEGATIVE REACTIONS STRIKE US AS SOMEWHAT EXCESSIVE DE LA MATA INTENDED THE ACCORD AS A GESTURE AND A LIBERALIZING STEP TOWARD LABOR REFORM. OBVIOUSLY, THE ACCORD COULD NOT ATONE FOR THE LABOR INJUSTICES AND THE JOBS LOST OVER THE PAST FORTY YEARS.  
STABLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMNESTY, LABOR UNIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MADRID 6023  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LABOR AMNESTY ACCORD  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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